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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 30, 2004

Ms. Val Ogden, Chair
Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
1111 Washington Street S.E.
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: Notebook Item #10; Thurston County ORV Sports Park

Dear Ms. Ogden:

This Friday, April 2, 2004, the Interagency Committee will be discussing the Thurston County ORV Sports Park. The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners has had an opportunity to review Laura E. Johnson's memorandum to the IAC. We appreciate the time your staff has given to developing the various options. We would like to take this opportunity to comment on two points raised in Ms. Johnson's memorandum.

Conversion: Options 3a and 3b propose conversion of the property to an alternative recreational use. These options both presume redevelopment of the property and continued County management of the property for recreational use. We want the IAC to know that the County has no financial resources to undertake such redevelopment and continued management. Given this, neither of these two options is practical or feasible to accomplish.

Day-Use Recreation: The Draft ORV Master Plan envisions the park be developed to increase opportunities for non-event day-use ORV recreation. However, due to the potential risk management limitations and costs, the draft budget in our letter of February 27, 2004 does not presume to earn locally generated revenues from such non-event activities. Options 1b and 1d both propose additional funding to cover any potential insurance costs associated with opening the park for such non-organized activities. We want the IAC to know that the ability to make the park available for non-event day-use ORV recreation is necessary to any decision the County makes to reopen the park.

Once again, we thank the IAC and your staff for considering Thurston County's concerns and interests regarding the ORV Park. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Don Krupp, Chief Administrative Officer at (360) 754-2960.

Sincerely,


DIANE OBERQUELL, Chairman


ROBERT N. MACLEOD, Vice-Chairman


CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

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